



## A Hot Labor Market and a Lucrative Career

### I. Good job security thanks to diesel technician labor market shortage in Alabama:

According to the Alabama Department of Labor, 3000 new diesel technicians will be hired over the next six years. On average, 63 diesel technicians graduate from Alabama diesel schools each year - **leaving nearly 450 unfulfilled jobs annually.**



Haley Pang

### II. Cullman area labor market:

- a. Alabama employers expect to hire over 400 diesel technicians in the Cullman area in the next 3-years. **New jobs are springing up and mechanics are retiring with no one to replace them.**
- b. Wallace State Community College's (WSCC) diesel technology department cannot train technicians fast enough to meet employer demand. **Many diesel technology students at WSCC are receiving job offers before they have completed their degree.**
- c. **Local employers currently hiring:** Cummins Inc, RE Garrison Trucking, AEE Truck and Trailer Repair, Ingram Farms, Action Enterprise Holdings, and Ryder *to name but a few.*

### III. Women are in demand in the diesel industry:

- a. **According to Mark Colson, president and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association, "Alabama's trucking industry needs the best and brightest to keep our technologically advanced fleet working safely on the roads. The best and the brightest are often women and they now have a designated pathway to becoming a diesel tech: the Wallace State Hanceville Diesel Technology program. It's the best route for women to join the team that keeps Alabama moving forward."**
- b. **This is a great time to be a woman in the Diesel Industry.** Employers are looking to hire women and salaries are high. With 6 women already enrolled in its diesel program, Wallace State Community College is launching an initiative to tackle the shortage of techs in the industry, **aiming to recruit 20 more women.**

### IV. Good salary and room for growth. No diesel background required:

Did you know that diesel technicians typically start at \$16 to \$24 an hour and that master technicians can make up to \$100k+? **No diesel experience required.** The program at Wallace State Community College will teach you to maintain and repair vehicles like large trucks, buses, and equipment used in agriculture and construction.

## Female Role Models

- a. Haley Pang (AL) got her first diesel technician job at 17, at an off-road shop she was a regular customer of. 7 years later she specializes in internal engine repair and is well on her way to becoming a master technician. **"I get excited about going to work - it doesn't feel like a job. It's very satisfying to repair a truck and know that you are one of the few people that can actually fix it and get everything moving again." Her advice to women: "This is a fabulous career. It's something you can be proud of. Don't be scared - you can do it!"**
- b. **Role model videos.** WSCC has a [collection of videos](#) of women in diesel



- c. **Women in Auto online communities.** Two active communities are:
  - i. **The Female Mechanics Society** is an active community of over 2700 members. This group is for female mechanics and those interested in getting into the trade:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1604586369836393>
  - ii. **The Female Mechanics Alliance** has over 3000 members and is heavy on the encouragement:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FemaleMechanicsAlliance/>

### Being a Diesel Mechanic: Nature of the Work

- I. **Computing skills.** Today, diesel technology is as much about computers as turning a wrench.
- II. **Solving mysteries.** Do you like a good mystery? Diesel technology is all about solving mysteries and fixing problems—from diagnosis to solution. From: What is making that noise? To: All fixed!
- III. **Variety.** Every day and every problem with a vehicle is different.
- IV. **Not a desk job.** An excellent career choice for people who like to use their hands and want to avoid sitting at a desk all day.
- V. **Helping others.** Repairing a truck quickly can mean important cargo arrives at its destination on time and that the truck driver makes some money that day.

### What Education Do I Need to Become a Diesel Technician?

- I. **Certificate or an associate's degree in diesel technology.**
- II. **Programs range from 1 semester to 2 years.** Day, evening, and weekend classes available. The Diesel by Distance program is a majority online option - 75% of the coursework can be done online. Virtual reality simulation labs give students the chance to repair an engine virtually, before they even touch one in the lab. Students may attend full-time or part-time.
- III. **Earn while you learn:** Students have the option to take a paid internship starting at \$16 to \$19/hour
- IV. **Scholarships/Financial aid:** Scholarships and financial aid pay for most students' tuition. Money should not be a barrier to participate in the diesel technology program.
- V. **Fall 2022 classes start August 18.**

### Next Steps for Women Interested in Diesel Technology

- I. **Women in Diesel Technology Student Interest Survey:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wscCWomendiesel>
- II. **View WSCC's Women in Diesel Technology Webpage**  
<https://womentech.iwitts.org/wscCWomendiesel>
- III. **Watch the Wallace State Women in Diesel Technology Webinar on [YouTube](#)**
- IV. **Apply – Contact Anna Beard, Diesel by Distance Coordinator,**  
for support with program registration.  
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